(a) whether the Law Commission has recently recommended setting up of four zonal benches and a permanent Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the creation of zonal benches has been a long pending demand particularly from the Southern States; and

(d) if so, by when the zonal benches of Supreme Court are likely to be created and made functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India in its 229th Report, has recommended that :

(i) A Constitution Bench be set up at Delhi to deal with constitutional and other allied issues.

(ii) Four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region/zone at Delhi, the Southern region/zone at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region/zone at Kolkata and the Western region/zone at Mumbai to deal with all appellate work arising out of the orders/judgments of the High Courts of the particular region.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The recommendations are being examined by the Government.

Reduction in court fee

†372.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Law Commission of India has advised the States to reduce court fee;

(b) whether the Commission has made recommendation to bring comprehensive uniformity in the criteria of court fee apart from fixing a maximum limit for fee in the country in its recent report; and

(c) if so, Governmentus reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission of India in its 220th Report on "Need to fix Maximum Chargeable Court-fee in Subordinate Civil Courts" had recommended "....there should be some measure of uniformity in the scales of court-fee. There is no justification for any differential treatment of different suitors. The Government, therefore, seriously consider the feasibility of a fixed maximum chargeable court-fee".

(c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee has, however, while deliberating upon the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 had raised the issue of differential fees for commercial and corporate cases in the

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.

context of globalization and corporate/commercial competition being observed during the recent times. The Committee drew the attention of the executive and the judiciary to arrive at a decision regarding differential court fees for the Commercial/corporate matters immediately; and to amend the Supreme Court Rules, High Court Rules and other Court fees Acts accordingly. The Law Commission has, therefore, been requested to consider this and submit its recommendations.

Disclosure of assets by JUDGES

373. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that divergent views have been expressed by different High Courts on the issue of disclosure of assets by judges and bringing it under the purview of Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to work out a consensus on the issue within the ambit of the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation on the issue of Accountability of Judges wherein it is also proposed to deal with the subject of declaration of assets by judges.

GSI's Role in Identification of Mineral Reserves

374. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the profile of Geological Survey of India (GSI) with regard to locating or identifying new minerals, etc.;

(b) whether there is continuous upgradation of the technology as per international state-of-art achievements in this regard;

(c) whether any quantification of total mineral reserves in India has been done; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the principal agency for locating or Identification of new mineral deposits in the country with a mandate to explore (through ground, airborne, satellite and marine surveys) and scientifically assess mineral and energy resources. Exploration carried out by GSI in the country has augmented manifold the resources of a number of important minerals like non-coking coal, iron ore, bauxite, gold, basemetal, chromite, platinoid group of elements (PGE), molybdenum, dolomite, limestone, manganese, magnesite, ball clay, bentonite etc.